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To the attention of: Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Telefax number: 1/703 308 4556

Telefax from: Lucy C. Weiss

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel

3M Innovative Properties Company

Phone: 651/733-1189 (direct)

Fax: 651/736-7421

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Our Reference: 55197US002

Date: October 5, 2001

Total number of pages: 18

Enclosed is an **Amendment** in response to the most recent Office Action for the following patent application (along with a "Terminal Disclaimer Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.321(b)", a **Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR Section 1.136(a)**, and copies of the Disclaimer and the Petition labeled "Duplicate" for deposit account processing):

Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads

Please transmit the Response to the following Examiner:

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1617

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PATENT  
Docket No.: 55197US002

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*Ray*  
*10/17/01*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 8, 2001. A petition (under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.136(a)) requesting a two-month extension of the time period for response (from a due date of August 8, 2001, to a due date of October 8, 2001) is enclosed herewith.

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**In the Claims**

Kindly amend Claims 1 and 4 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date: October 5, 2001 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Lucy C. Weiss*  
Lucy C. Weiss, Reg. No. 32,834

*Sub C1*  
*Q1*